

Amendments to the Claims:

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method of preparing a titania composite membrane for separating water/alcohol mixtures, the method comprising the steps of :
  - (a) modifying macropores of a porous support by sequentially treating the macropores with silica xerogel and  $\gamma$ -alumina sol in this order;
  - (b) forming a titania surface layer according to a sol-gel process by coating said modified porous surface with titania sol; and
  - (c) drying said membrane at 20-30°C and relative humidity of 50-70% followed by calcining said membrane at 250-400°C.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said porous support is a porous metal support having a pore size of 1-5  $\mu\text{m}$ .
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (a) comprises a first modification of the macropores of said porous support by packing silica xerogel with a press and a second modification of the surface with  $\gamma$ -alumina sol according to a soaking-rolling process.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said titania sol is prepared by refluxing titanium tetraalkoxide in a mixture of water, alcohol and hydrochloric acid.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (b) is performed by coating the modified surface with titania sol according to a soaking-rolling process.
6. (Currently Amended) The titania composite membrane for separating water/alcohol mixtures prepared according to ~~any of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein said membrane has a pore size of 1-2 nm, a surface area of 300-350  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , a permeability for water of 25-520  $\text{g}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{h}$  and a selectivity for water of 1-400 in water/alcohol mixtures at 250° C.

7. (Original) The membrane of claim 6, wherein said permeability for water is 25-420 g/m<sup>2</sup>-h and said selectivity for water is 10-140 in water/ethanol mixtures at 250°C.

8. (Original) The membrane of claim 6, wherein said permeability for water is 50-520 g/m<sup>2</sup>-h and said selectivity for water of 30-400 in water/propanol mixtures at 250°C.

9. (New) The titania composite membrane for separating water/alcohol mixtures prepared according to claim 2, wherein said membrane has a pore size of 1-2 nm, a surface area of 300-350 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a permeability for water of 25-520 g/m<sup>2</sup>-h and a selectivity for water of 1-400 in water/alcohol mixtures at 250° C.

10. (New) The titania composite membrane for separating water/alcohol mixtures prepared according to claim 3, wherein said membrane has a pore size of 1-2 nm, a surface area of 300-350 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a permeability for water of 25-520 g/m<sup>2</sup>-h and a selectivity for water of 1-400 in water/alcohol mixtures at 250° C.

11. (New) The titania composite membrane for separating water/alcohol mixtures prepared according to claim 4, wherein said membrane has a pore size of 1-2 nm, a surface area of 300-350 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a permeability for water of 25-520 g/m<sup>2</sup>-h and a selectivity for water of 1-400 in water/alcohol mixtures at 250° C.

12. (New) The titania composite membrane for separating water/alcohol mixtures prepared according to claim 5, wherein said membrane has a pore size of 1-2 nm, a surface area of 300-350 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a permeability for water of 25-520 g/m<sup>2</sup>-h and a selectivity for water of 1-400 in water/alcohol mixtures at 250° C.